



UTILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2014

Members Present:

Trustee Jeff Hicks, Treasurer Howard Pizzo, and Trustee R. Douglas Kosinski

Members Absent:

N/A

Staff Members Present:

Township Manager Richard Watkins, Deputy Township Manager Jen Roberts, Finance Director Jeff Anderson, and Utility Director Tom Morrissey

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Jeff Hicks at 4:35 p.m.

2. Public Comment:

N/A

3. Set/Adjust Agenda:

Howard Pizzo moved to accept the agenda as written. Doug Kosinski seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

4. Snow Road Tower Painting:

Richard Watkins provided an update on the painting of the Snow Road Tower, which included the following:

- Information on meetings held with Waverly and Grand Ledge schools, and their interest in putting something representative of the schools on the towers. He also indicated that they wouldn't be upset if it didn't happen.
- Provided possible ideas of what to put on the towers, e.g., the current logo or the new "I AM DELTA" logo

A discussion followed with regard to this information, and a unanimous opinion that the schools logos added along with Delta Township's logo to the towers would be too much. A suggestion was made that the schools put up their own banners, which could hang along the street or from street lights near the schools instead of placing them on the water towers, which all agreed upon.

A recommendation was made by the committee to paint the new fun logo "I AM DELTA" on the water towers instead of the old logo.

Tom Morrissey informed the committee that he is meeting with the painter on Monday morning, May 5th, and asked the committee what color the logo should be painted.

A discussion ensued and the committee decided the logo should be painted blue on white for the towers.

5. Water Services to Single Family:

Tom Morrissey provided an overview of past practices with regard to who pays for service leak repairs on commercial and industrial properties. Tom also informed the committee of a recent occurrence at a commercial development located on Harvest Lane, and how they obtained an attorney who asked for documentation showing who is responsible for these costs, which after investigating he was unable to produce. Delta Township currently has nothing in writing, it has always been an unwritten past practice. After discovering this fact he spoke to Richard Watkins and asked for some guidance, in which a survey to area communities was suggested and completed. His findings were that most area policies indicate that from the main to the curb stop belongs to the municipality, and from the curb stop in belongs to the resident/single family/commercial etc. He stated Delta Township is not in the same game as the rest of the region, so he asked the committee what action they felt should be taken.

Richard Watkins indicated that he feels we need to come up with a policy that is consistent for all of our customers, commercial and residential. He suggested that we create a policy that states that we will install the water service, and warranty it for a year after installation. He also stated that Delta Township needs to do this for all of its' customers, and Delta should send a notice out with the utility bills stating that from now on it is Delta Township's policy that we warranty from the curb stop only for a year, so a customer's service is warrantied from this date until a year from now, and after that it is their responsibility.

A discussion followed with regard to the Township's future practice for service leak repairs, which included:

- Township responsibilities
- Warranty period
- Consistent guidelines for all utilities
- Policy versus Ordinance
- Township installation versus private sector installation
- Amount of residential versus commercial property repairs
- Inspection process and permits

Richard Watkins to further research this subject and come up with a method, then present his findings to the Township Board.

6. Water Wastewater Rate Discussion:

Jeff Anderson provided the Committee with the following information:

- How Delta Township did in 2013 – \$800,000 loss, which includes the 2003 bonds being paid off – taken into account means we actually flowed \$300,000 positive
- 2% increase would flow \$182,000
- In the last 15 years the Sewer fund has been in a good position, there hasn't been a lot of major projects
- Recommended a 2% increase on the Sewer Fund
- Water Fund is \$218,000 positive
- BW&L does not project an increase in 2015 (Richard provided information he had received from the BW&L with regard to a 9% rate increase, which was changed to no increase during a discussion he had with them)
- Recommended a 3% rate increase for the Water Fund
- Shared regional rates and how Delta Township compared
- Result of a \$1.14 average consumer charge increase per month if the proposed increases to both Water and Sewer Funds are approved

Doug Kosinski motioned to approve the suggested water and sewer rate increases. Howard Pizzo seconded this motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Jeff Anderson to present the rate increases to the Township Board at the June 12th Committee of the Whole Board meeting, with possible final Board approval during the June 19th Regular Board meeting. These increases would be effective June 1st, but would not show up until the July bill.

7. Other Business:

Tom Morrissey informed the Committee that Lansing Township joined Delta Township's SCATA system (they are piggy backing us), which was turned on April 30th. The bill came to approximately \$14,000, Lansing Township's quote was \$30,000, so they are totally ecstatic.

Jeff Anderson indicated that Dave Marquette and he are working on putting a self-service utility bill payment center in the Library, to try to be more user friendly to our residents. Also, we are evaluating third party software to give residents more access to use the radio reader, which could provide text messages of potential leaks to snow birds or those away on vacation. They will be looking into this more this summer.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.